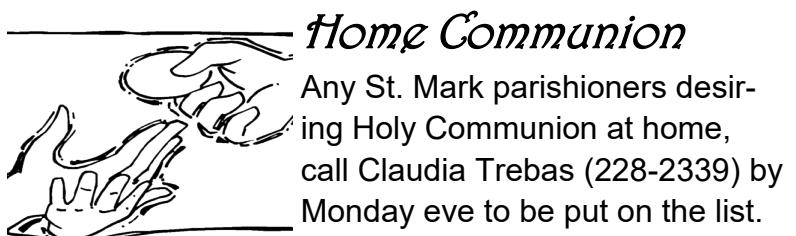


PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



Sat, December 24, 4:30 p.m. St. Andrew's
(† Jack Sandy)
Sat, 7:30 pm St. Mark's
(Parishioners)
Sun, December 25, 11 a.m. St. Mark's
(† Duane Sebelius)
Tue, December 27, 12 p.m. St. Mark's
(Ron Kujawa)
Wed, December 28, 12 p.m. St. Mark's
(† Edward Cote)
Thurs, Dec 29, 9 a.m. St. Andrew's
(† Lloyd & Elsie Pease)
Fri, December 30, 11:00 a.m. Good Samaritan
(Ron Kujawa)
Sat, December 31, 5:30 p.m. St. Mark's
(† Severin, Gary & Patti Posch)
Sun, January 1, 9 a.m. St. Andrew's
(† Louise Deschamp)
Sun, 11 a.m. St. Mark's
(Parishioners)



Home Communion
Any St. Mark parishioners desiring Holy Communion at home, call Claudia Trebas (228-2339) by Monday eve to be put on the list.



To add or remove a name, please contact Deb Wyman at 245-6538 or the parish office.

PARTIONERS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS: Military personnel & their families, Cindy Volk, Donna Stratton, Wayne Barbot; Renee Wondrasek, Arlene Duval, Tanya Buzzard, the Thomas family, Michael Doise, Patricia Anderson, Jaxon Barbot; Kenadi Zappone, Bridget Herpel, Jerry Burns, Chris Vattel, Glen Brandjord, Eloise Halvorson, a special private intention.

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Andrew's—

K-6 Religious Ed.—will resume January 8

St. Mark's—

Religious Ed Classes K-6—will resume January 4
January 6—First Friday Adoration

**Thank You so much for your many
cards and gifts flowing in to brighten
our parish office & our hearts.**

MERRY CHRISTMAS

from Fr. Michael & Ursula

**ST. MARK'S PARISHIONERS
PLEASE DO NOT FORGET
TO SIGN UP FOR A MINISTRY
FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.
THE SHEET IS OUT
AT THE CHURCH ENTRANCE.
IT IS REALLY APPRECIATED!**

STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." — Luke 2:19

Mary is the perfect role model for living a stewardship lifestyle. She listened to God and said "yes" to His invitation to be the Holy Mother of His son. She also trusted in God's providence on a daily basis. As we start a new year, take time every day to listen to how God is calling you; trust that He has a better plan for you than you could ever imagine.



Report For December 18, 2016

St Andrew's: Ad env \$ 429 Pl \$ 316 and Ch \$ 19.25

St Mark's: Ad env \$ 2912 Pl \$ 94.53 and Ch \$ 7 Roof \$100



ST. MARK'S BOTTINEAU & ST. ANDREW'S WESTHOPE

PARISH OFFICE: (701) 228-3164 RECTORY: (701) 228-5164 stsmanda@utma.com

322 Sinclair St. • Bottineau, ND • 58318 - www.stmark-standrew.org



PARISH STAFF

Fr Michael Hickin, Pastor

Ursula Palmer, Secretary

Cathy Miller, Custodian

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Valerie Heth, DRE

St. Andrew's Parish

Ursula Palmer, DRE

St. Mark's Parish

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:30 pm, Bottineau

Sunday 9:00 am, Westhope

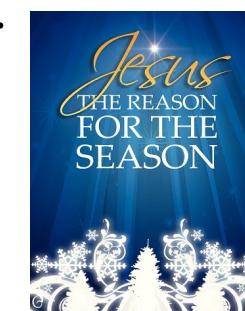
And 11:00 am, Bottineau



Christmas Greetings

*Sing, oh sing, this blessed morn,
Unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given,
God himself comes down from heaven.
Sing, oh sing, this blessed morn,
Jesus Christ today is born.*

Amen.



December 24-25 The Nativity of the Lord

CONFESIONS

Saturday, 4:30 pm, Bottineau

Sunday, 8:30 am, Westhope

Or by Appointment

OFFICE HOURS

Tue 12:30pm-5:00pm

Wed 9:00am-3:30pm

Thurs 12:30pm-5:00pm

Fri 9:00am-5:00pm

From the Pastor's Pen



THE GIFT OF SILENCE. Exactly 200 years ago, Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest, wrote *Stille Nacht* (1816). A year later, he was assigned to a parish in the Austrian village of Oberndorf. Before Christmas Eve, 1818, Fr. Mohr brought the words to Franz Xaver Gruber, nearby schoolmaster and organist. He asked him to compose a melody and guitar accompaniment. Together they performed the carol for the first time during Midnight Mass, 1818, in the church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf. This classic Christmas carol has been translated into about 140 languages.

Its longevity has something to do with human awe before authentic Silence. We struggle to rest in Silence. But we yearn for it, which is why we love to sing *Silent Night*. If your pastor could give each of his flock a special, personal gift this Christmas Season, it would be the tiny miracle of a prolonged moment of true Silence.

The Angels gave the shepherds a "sign" that their great Announcement "*Glory to God in the highest and Peace on Earth*" was true. The "sign" was this, "You will find an *Infant* wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

The word "infant" literally means, 'unable to speak'. The Angels send the shepherds into Silence, the Word who does not speak. This is not normal, and yet it totally is. It is an invitation into a great Mystery.

We believe that God speaks to us in the Bible. The God of the Bible also speaks without words, as Christ demonstrates in the Crib and on the Cross. Let's listen to Pope Benedict, a great student and teacher of Silence. Chew on his words. They just may open the door for you to slip into the gift your pastor prays and wishes us all to open (including himself).

COMMUNICATION. "Silence is an integral element in communication; if its absence, words rich in content cannot exist. In silence, we are better able to listen to and understand ourselves; ideas come to birth and acquire depth; we understand with greater clarity what it is we want to say and what we expect from others; and we choose how to express ourselves."

LOVE. "It is often in silence that we observe the most authentic communication taking place between people who are in love: gestures, facial expressions, and body language are signs by which they reveal themselves to each other."

MISSION. "In speaking of God's grandeur, our language will always prove inadequate and must make space for silent contemplation. Out of such contemplation springs forth, with all its inner power, the urgent sense of mission, the compelling obligation to communicate that which we have seen and heard so that all may be in

communion with God. Silent contemplation immerses us in the source of that Love who directs us towards our neighbors so that we may feel their suffering and offer them the light of Christ, his message of life and his saving gift of the fullness of love."

MARY. "To Mary, whose silence "listens to the Word and causes it to blossom" I entrust all the work of evangelization which the Church undertakes through the means of social communication.

PRAYER. "Silence is the environmental condition that most favors contemplation, listening to God and meditation. The very fact of experiencing silence, of allowing ourselves to be *filled*, so to speak, with silence, disposes us to prayer."

OASIS. "God speaks in the silence, but we need to know how to listen for Him. That is why monasteries are oases where God speaks to man; and in them there is the cloister, which is a symbolic place, for it is a space that is enclosed yet opened to heaven."

One of the great but hidden gifts our two parishes received in 2016 is that we were spiritually adopted by a cloistered Nun. In January, Sr. Veronica of the Immaculate Heart of Mary began to enfold St. Mark's and St. Andrew's into her life of prayer. She has given her whole life to dwell in Silence so that we can proclaim Christ. I have much more confidence in her silence than in my words to keep our people on the path Christ stretches out before us—through 2017 and beyond.



THE BOTTINEAU FOOD PANTRY THANKS ALL OF St. Mark's parishioners who have worked at our local food pantry, this month. It is really appreciated!

RIGHT TO LIFE still have some Lefse for sale. Please contact Peggy Nero or Wayne Miller. Thank you for your support.



CLEANING PERSON FOR ST. MARK'S. One day per week for the church/social hall and twice a month at the rectory. If interested, please contact the parish office. Thank you.



CLEARING THE SIDEWALKS AT ST. MARK'S.

Al Wondrasek has offered to clear snow from the sidewalks at St. Mark's, but he will be absent several weeks this Winter.

TO ALL OF OUR PARISHIONERS AT ST. MARK'S AND ST. ANDREW'S—Please be on the look-out. Your 2017 offering envelopes will be sent quarterly directly to your house by mail. If you haven't gotten them already, you will be getting them soon. Any questions, please call Ursula at 228-3164.



THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS — will have the annual FREE THROW competition on January 8, 2017 at 1pm at the Bottineau HS Gym for boys and

girls ages 10-14. Don't miss out on this event. It will be fun!



St. Andrew's Ministries

DATE	EUCARISTIC MINISTERS	READER	GIFT BEARERS	ALTAR SERVERS	USHERS	COUNTERS
Sun. Jan 1	John Wyman / Paul Klokstad	Grace Griffith	Baumann family	Hannah Radzwill / Calma Henry	Linda Ellingson & Paul Klokstad	Roger Heth / Mark Radzwill

St. Mark's Ministries for December 31-Jan 1

DATE	EUCARISTIC MINISTERS	READER	GIFT BEARERS	USHERS	GREETERS	COUNTERS
Satr.	Bread: Vickie Gangl Sharon & Lenny McGuire	Jessica Tagestad	Grant Tagestad family	Matt Brandjord/ Paul Amsbaugh	Marlys Richard	
Sun.	Bread: Warren Emmer Jen Nero / Leanna Emmer	Jared Nelson	Patricia Gruber family	Mike Haberman / Mike Nero	Mike Nero family	Priscilla Sturdevant / Carla Eisenzimmer

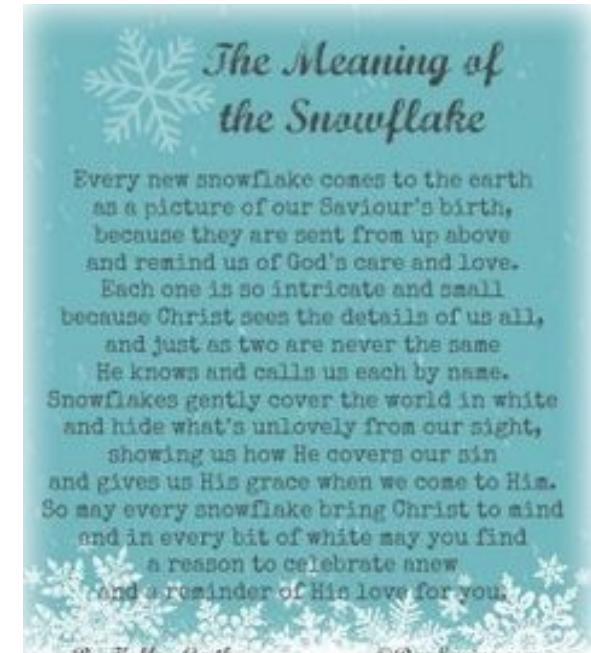
BIG SHOUT OUT to our kids who Went Caroling this past Wednesday. We had a great time and we Brought the Christmas Spirit to A few people. We got some Candy back from some of them.



"CLIMATE SURVEY"—During the month of January, parishioners will be polled. Our parish council members would like to take the pulse of the parish, both St. Andrew's and St. Mark's.

The surveys will be announced at the Masses next weekend. They will be distributed the following week. We will follow up with reminders and mailings to those who may have been away. At the end of the month we will close our collection of the surveys and begin tabulating the results.

We hope this will give us a preliminary snapshot of who we are and how we feel as a community. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.



Every new snowflake comes to the earth as a picture of our Saviour's birth, because they are sent from up above and remind us of God's care and love. Each one is so intricate and small because Christ sees the details of us all, and just as two are never the same He knows and calls us each by name. Snowflakes gently cover the world in white and hide what's unlovely from our sight, showing us how He covers our sin and gives us His grace when we come to Him. So may every snowflake bring Christ to mind and in every bit of white may you find a reason to celebrate anew and a reminder of His love for you.

By Kelley Gerth

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